

Internet Formulary Advisor

Version 1.0

User Manual



December 2022

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)**

Revision History

| Date | Revision | Description | Author |
|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| December 2022 | 1.0 | Initial version | Liberty IT Solutions |

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1. Introduction

The **VA Internet Formulary Advisor** is a tool intended for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and non-VA personnel to search VA National Formulary information.

1.1. Purpose

This User Manual describes the functional characteristics, important features, and navigational elements of the **VA Internet Formulary Advisor**.

2. System Summary

The **VA Internet Formulary Advisor** provides users with the following functions:

- Search publicly accessible information from the VA National Formulary and Community Care Urgent/Emergent Formulary Information quickly and easily
- Search by Drug, Drug Class, and Therapeutic Category
- Filter search results by formulary status
- Check other drugs in the same class or category
- Review Criteria for Use (CFU) documents

The primary benefit of the **VA Internet Formulary Advisor** is to provide users a more comprehensive and user-friendly search tool.

2.1. Navigation

Users have two ways to navigate to the **VA Internet Formulary Advisor**:

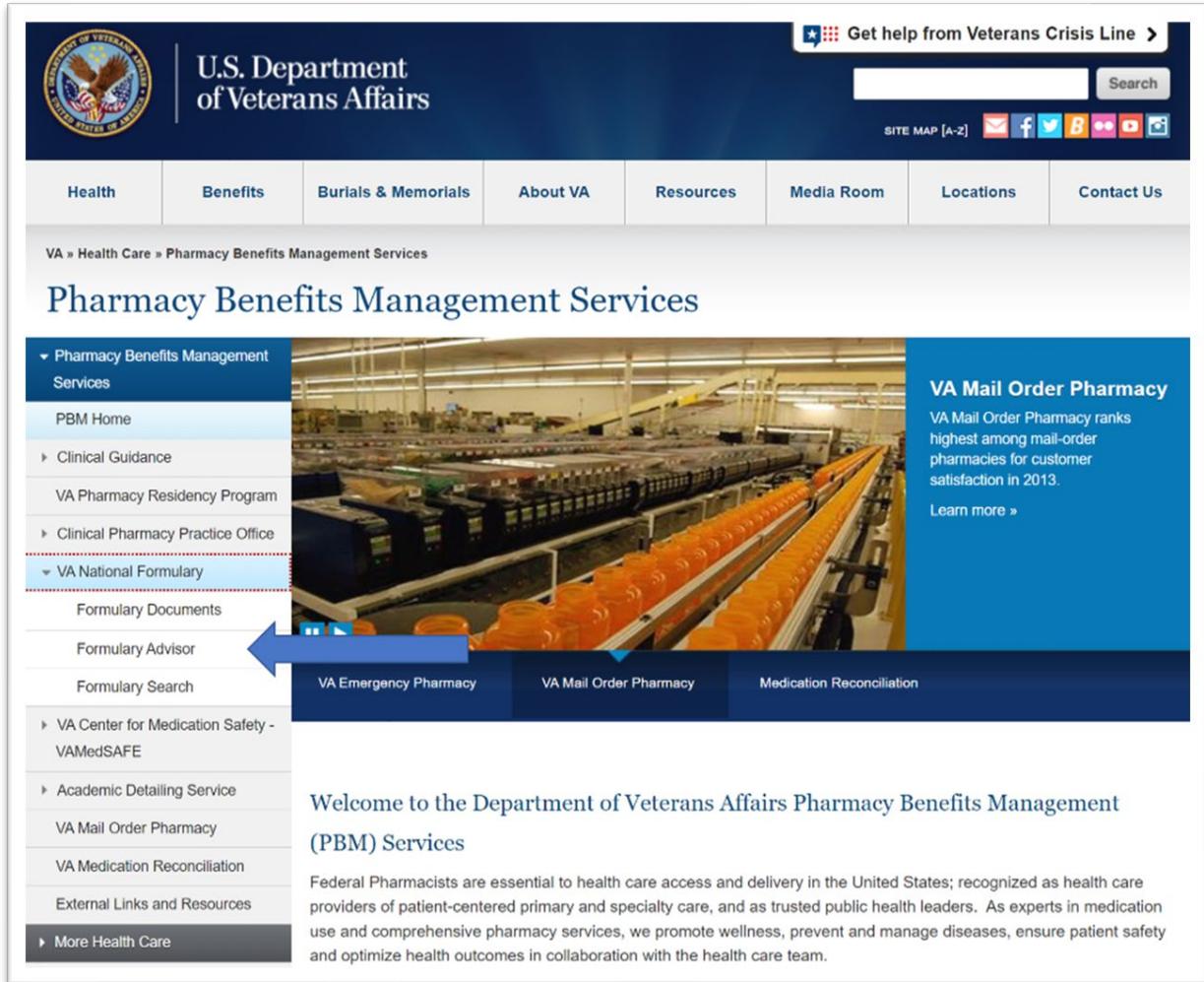
1. Enter the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL) into the navigation bar:
<https://www.va.gov/FormularyAdvisor>

Figure 2-1. VA Formulary Advisor URL



2. Via the Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Services site on va.gov.
 - a. Enter the following URL into the navigation bar: <https://www.pbm.va.gov>

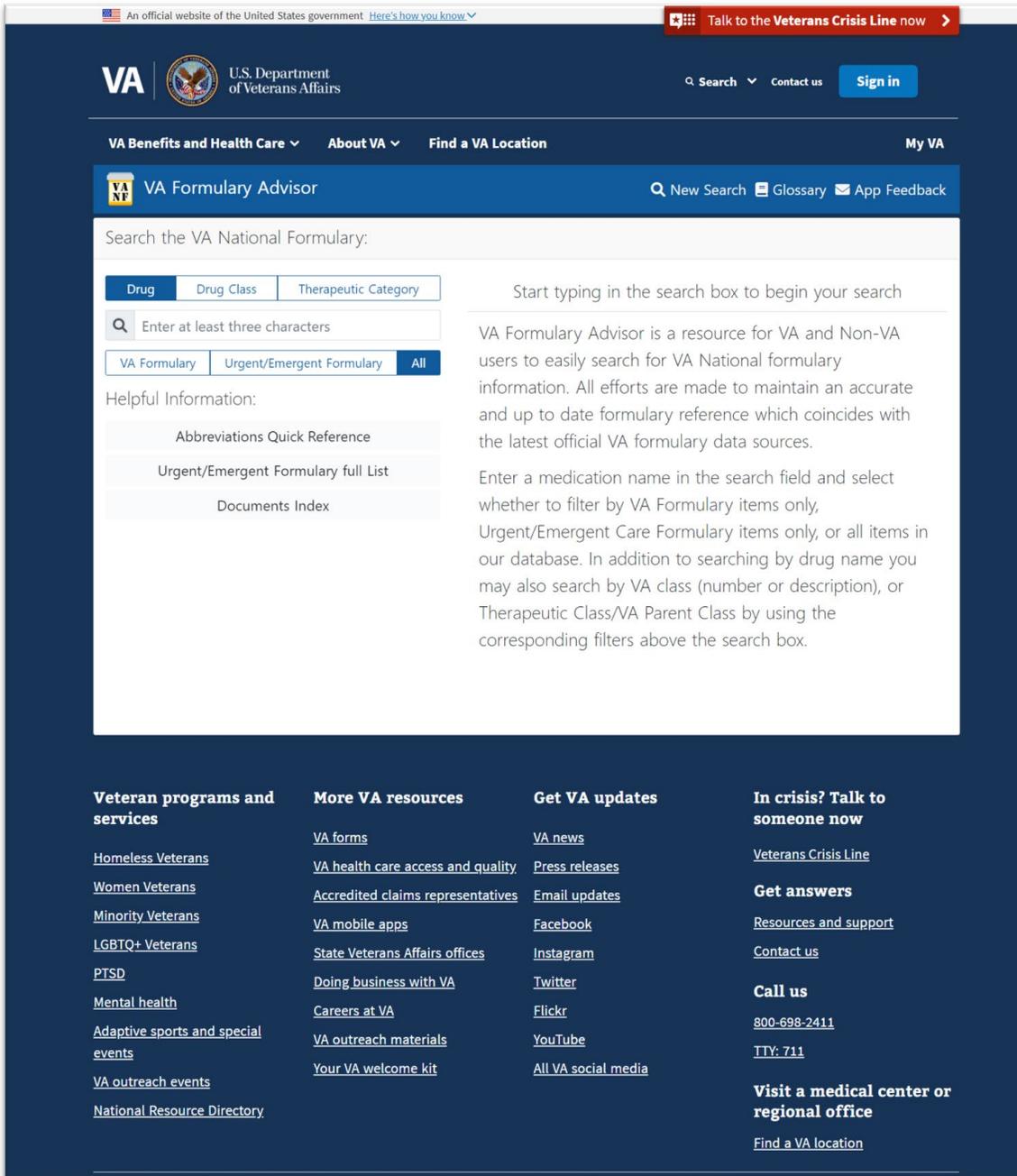
Figure 2-2. Pharmacy Benefits Management Services Site



2.2. Site Navigation

Once on the site, users are on the home page where the search pane is visible.

Figure 2-3. Home Page Featuring Search Pane



The home page includes the search pane with different filters for each search and an **Abbreviations Quick Reference** guide for the various icons that may appear in search results.

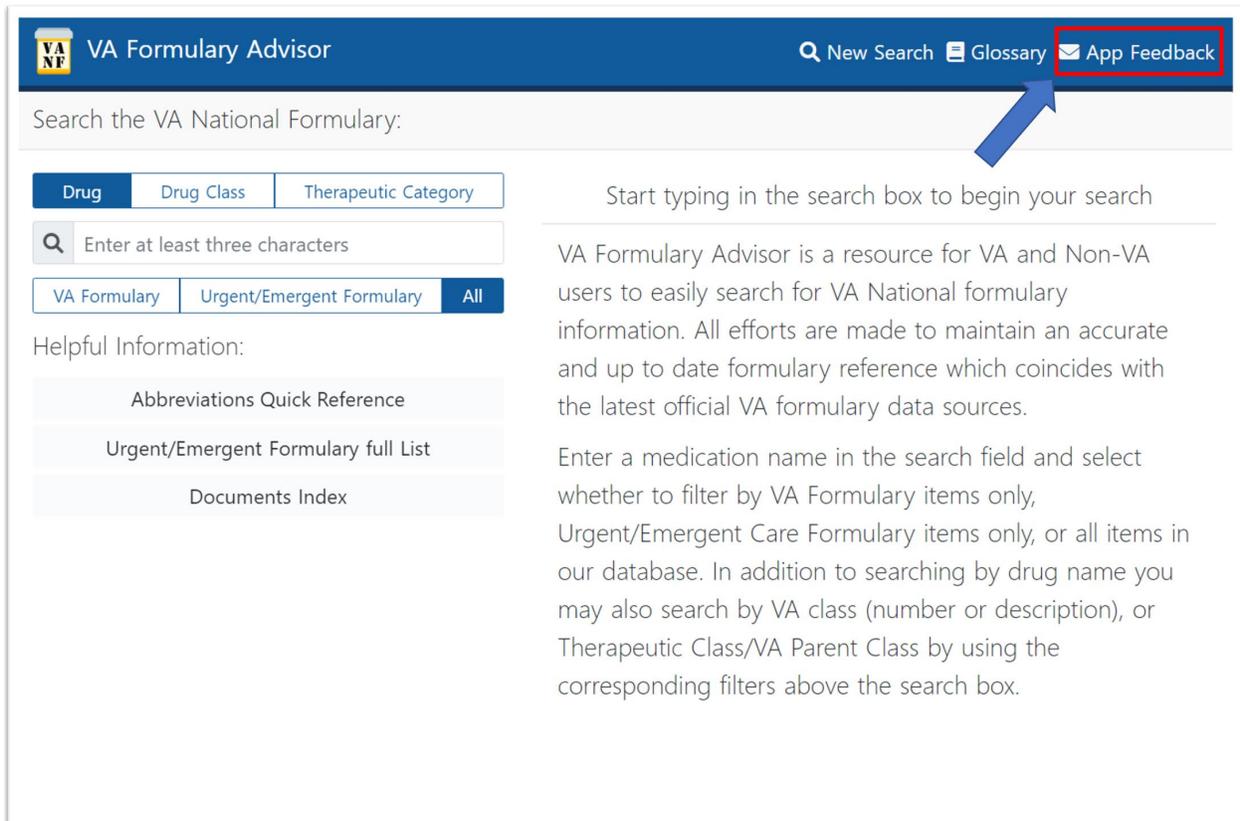
The top navigation for the page has the following items:

- **Home page:** Allows users to navigate back to the landing page.
- **Glossary:** Lists the terms and abbreviations found throughout the site.
- **About page:** Information about the site. *“The VA Formulary Advisor is a resource for VA and Non-VA users to easily search for VA National formulary information. All efforts are made to maintain an accurate and up to date formulary reference which coincides with the latest official VA formulary data sources.”*
- **Support team email link:** This link opens an email message that allows users to email the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) PBM Internet Formulary team.

2.3. Sending Feedback

If a user would like to send feedback about the VA Internet Formulary Advisor, they can do so by clicking on the email link in the top navigation bar.

Figure 2-4. Feedback Email Links



2.4. VA Global Header

The VA branded global header and footer is currently managed by the Public Website team. When a change is made to the va.gov headers and footers, these changes will also be made to the Formulary Advisor's.

Figure 2-5. Global Header

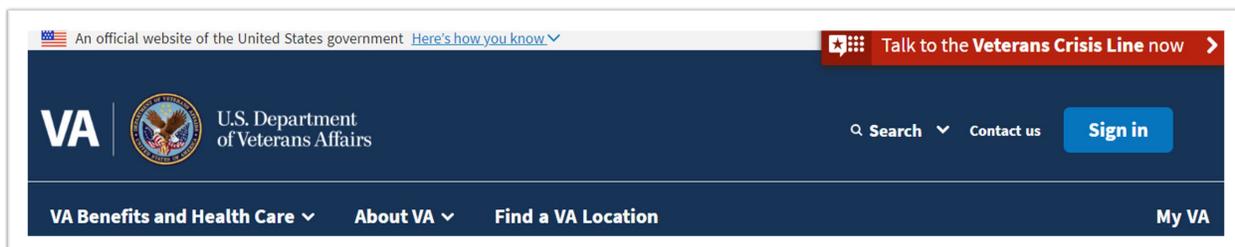
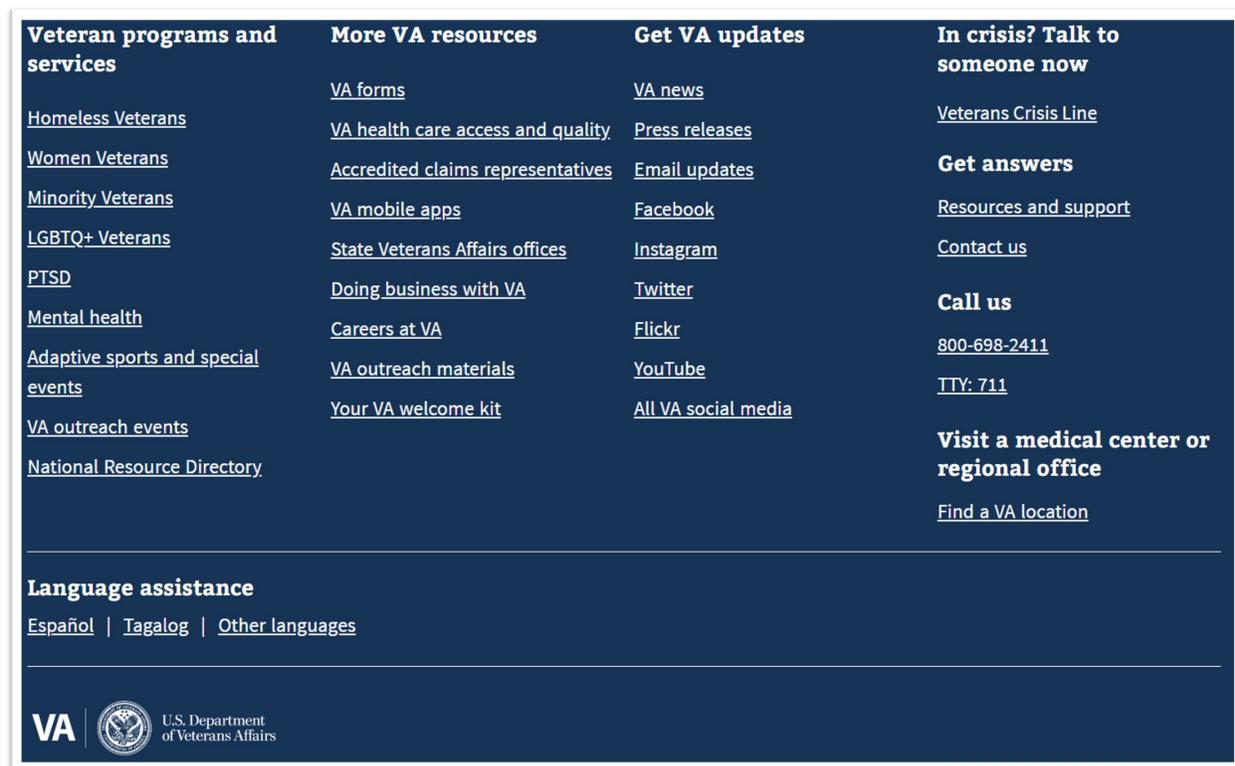


Figure 2-6. Global Footer



Items found in the header:

- **VA Benefits and Health Care dropdown menu:** Links to various VA benefit information.
- **About VA dropdown menu.**
- **Find a VA Location link:** Allows users to find a nearby VA center.

Items found in the footer:

- **Veteran Programs and Services** menu: Links for users to find various resources and programs offered by the VA.
- **More VA resources** menu:
- **Get VA Updates:** Links to social media, news, press releases, etc.
- **Veterans Crisis Line** link: Gives users the resources to connect with the 24/7 crisis care line via web chat, text, or phone call.
- **VA Contact information.**
- **Language assistance.**

3. Getting Started

The following sections provide instructions on conducting searches and accessing CFU documents.

3.1. Search

Users can search for various drugs, drug classes and therapeutic categories using the search pane found on the home page.

Figure 3-1. Search Pane on Home Page

Search the VA National Formulary:

Drug Drug Class Therapeutic Category

Q Enter at least three characters

VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All

Helpful Information:

Abbreviations Quick Reference

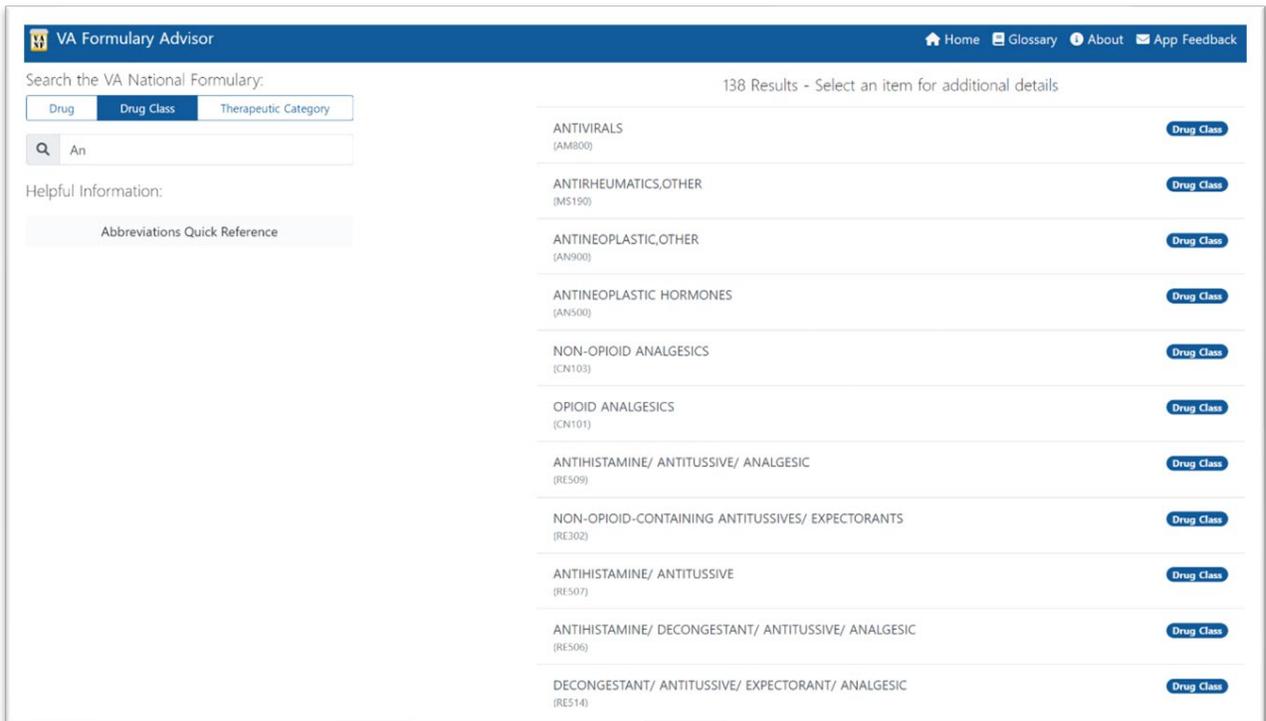
To start a search for a drug, drug class, or therapeutic category, user must enter a minimum of three characters.

Figure 3-2. Search for Drug, Drug Class or Therapeutic Category



If searching by drug class, user needs to enter a minimum of two characters.

Figure 3-3. Filter by Drug Class



Users can also filter by formulary status: **VA Formulary**, **Urgent/Emergent Formulary**, or **All** items in the national drug file.

Figure 3-4. Filter by Formulary Status

Search the VA National Formulary:

Drug Drug Class Therapeutic Category

Enter at least three characters

VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All

Helpful Information:

Abbreviations Quick Reference

Searches can be entered as comma or space separated. The order in which the terms are entered does not change the search results.

Figure 3-5. Search the VA National Formulary

VA Formulary Advisor Home Glossary About App Feedback

Search the VA National Formulary: 7 Results - Select an item for additional details

Drug Drug Class Therapeutic Category

Cap, Ri

VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All

Helpful Information:

Abbreviations Quick Reference

| | |
|---|-----|
| AMOXICILLIN/ OMEPRAZOLE/ RIFABUTIN CAP,EC (NALCIA) | NF |
| ISONIAZID/ RIFAMPIN CAP (RIFAMPIN AND ISONIAZID, RIFAMATE) | F |
| METHYLPHENIDATE HCL (EQV-RITALIN LA) CAP,SA (RITALIN LA) | F |
| RIBAVIRIN CAP (REBETOL, RIBASPHERE) | F-R |
| RIFABUTIN CAP (MYCOBUTIN) | F |
| RIFAMPIN CAP (RIFADIN, RIMACTANE) | F |
| RIVASTIGMINE CAP (EXELON) | NF |

The user sees the following search results as show above in Figure 3-5:

- Generic and Trade Name for the drug search results.
- Colored formulary status and other document indicators.
 - For more information on these icons refer to the **Abbreviations Quick Reference**.

3.1.1. Search by URL

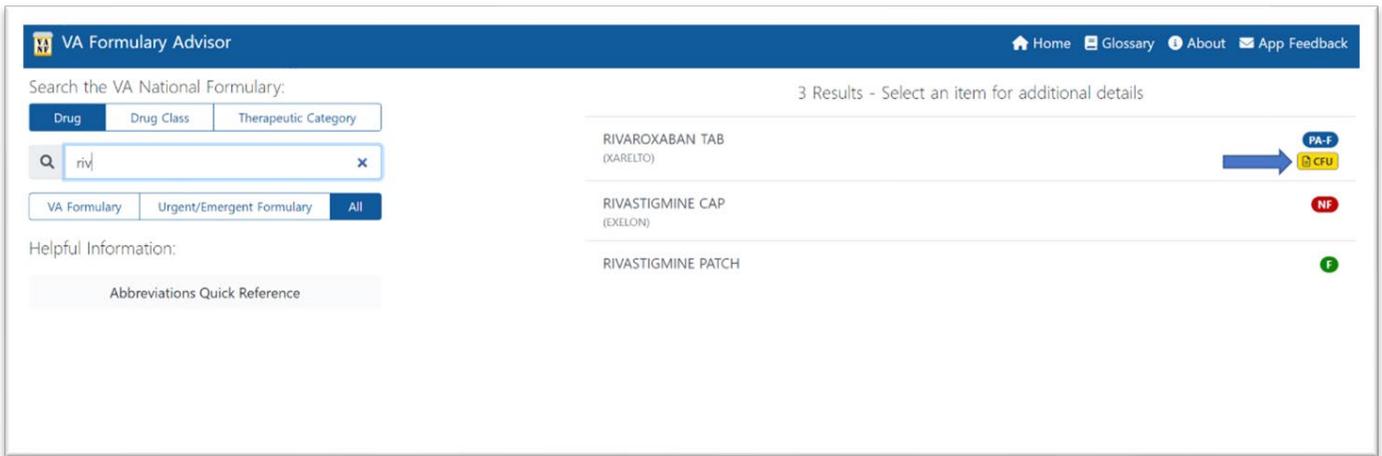
Users can also search directly by entering search queries in the URL bar.

- www.va.gov/formularyadvisor/search/drugname
or
- www.va.gov/formularyadvisor/?s=drugname

3.1.2. Accessing CFU Documents

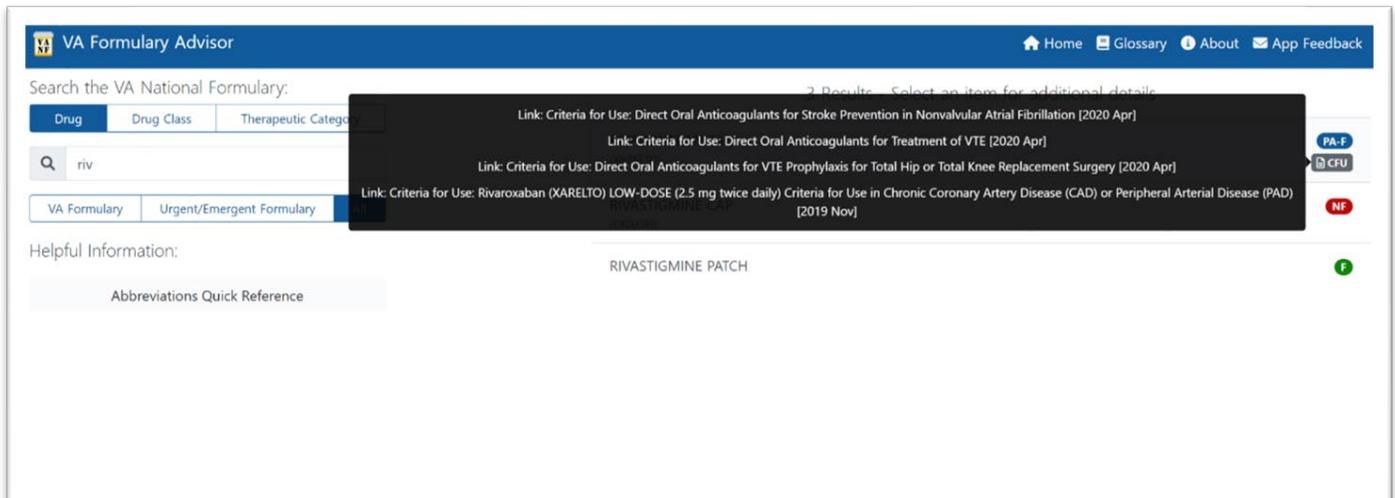
Drugs with CFU documentation have an indicator in the search results.

Figure 3-6. Indication for Drugs with CFU



Users can hover over this indicator to see which CFU documents are available. Clicking the link opens the corresponding CFU Portable Document Format (PDF) file.

Figure 3-7. CFU Information



The CFUs can also be accessed through the **Documents & Links** section on the **Drug Detail** page.

Figure 3-8. Documents & Links Section of Drug Detail Page

VA Formulary Advisor

Home Glossary About App Feedback

RIVAROXABAN TAB

Possible Synonyms: XARELTO

Drug Detail

Drug Class: ANTICOAGULANTS

VA Class Code: BL110

Therapeutic Category: BLOOD PRODUCTS/ MODIFIERS/ VOLUME EXPANDERS

Formulary Information

Formulary Status: **PA-F** Local Prior Authorization Required

Copay Tier: 3
[Copy Tier Information on VA.gov](#)

Urgent/Emergent Formulary: N

Additional Info

i This item requires facility-level prior authorization. Review criteria for use documentation or contact your local VA Pharmacy POC for additional information on the VA non-formulary process.

Documents & Links

- [Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for Stroke Prevention in Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation \[2020 Apr\]](#)
- [Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for Treatment of VTE \[2020 Apr\]](#)
- [Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for VTE Prophylaxis for Total Hip or Total Knee Replacement Surgery \[2020 Apr\]](#)
- [Criteria for Use: Rivaroxaban \(XARELTO\) LOW-DOSE \(2.5 mg twice daily\) Criteria for Use in Chronic Coronary Artery Disease \(CAD\) or Peripheral Arterial Disease \(PAD\) \[2019 Nov\]](#)

Other Drugs In Same Class

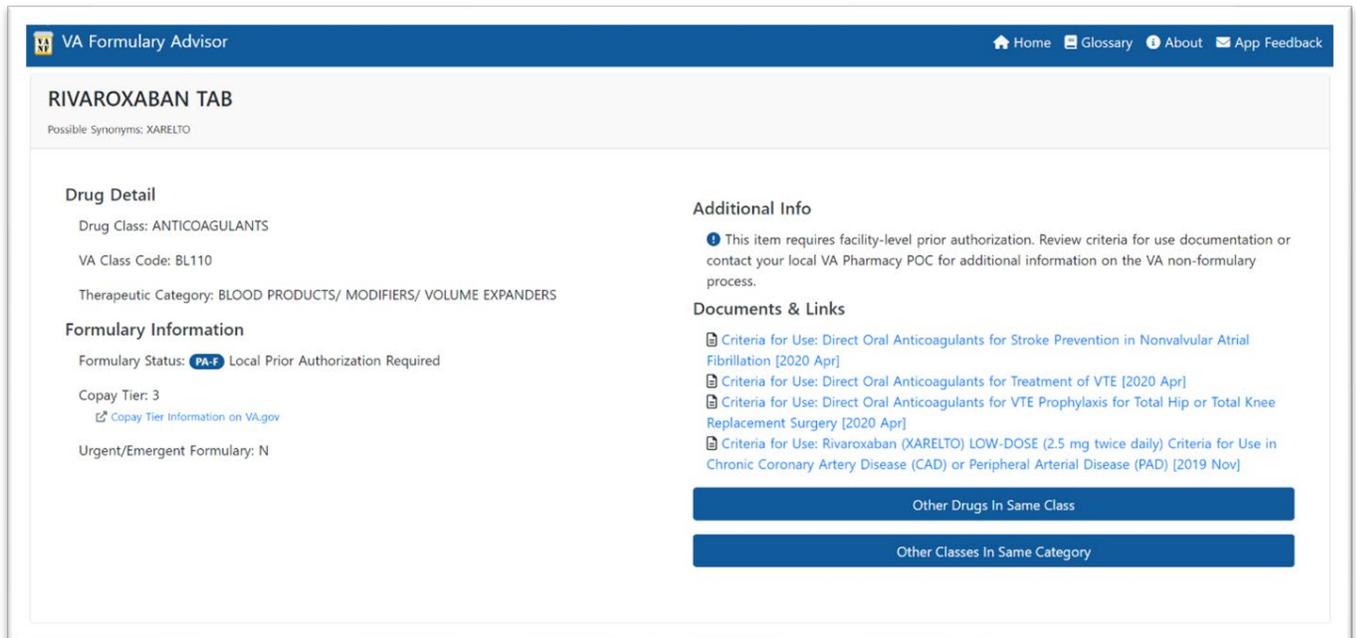
Other Classes In Same Category

3.2. Drug Detail Page

The **Drug Detail** page provides the following information to users:

- Drug class
- VA Class Code
- Therapeutic Category
- Formulary Status
- Copay Tier
 - Link to the Copay Tier information on **va.gov**
- If the drug is on the Urgent/Emergent Formulary
- Additional information about the drug
- Any CFU documentation
- Links to show **Other Drugs in Same Class** and **Other Classes in Same Category**

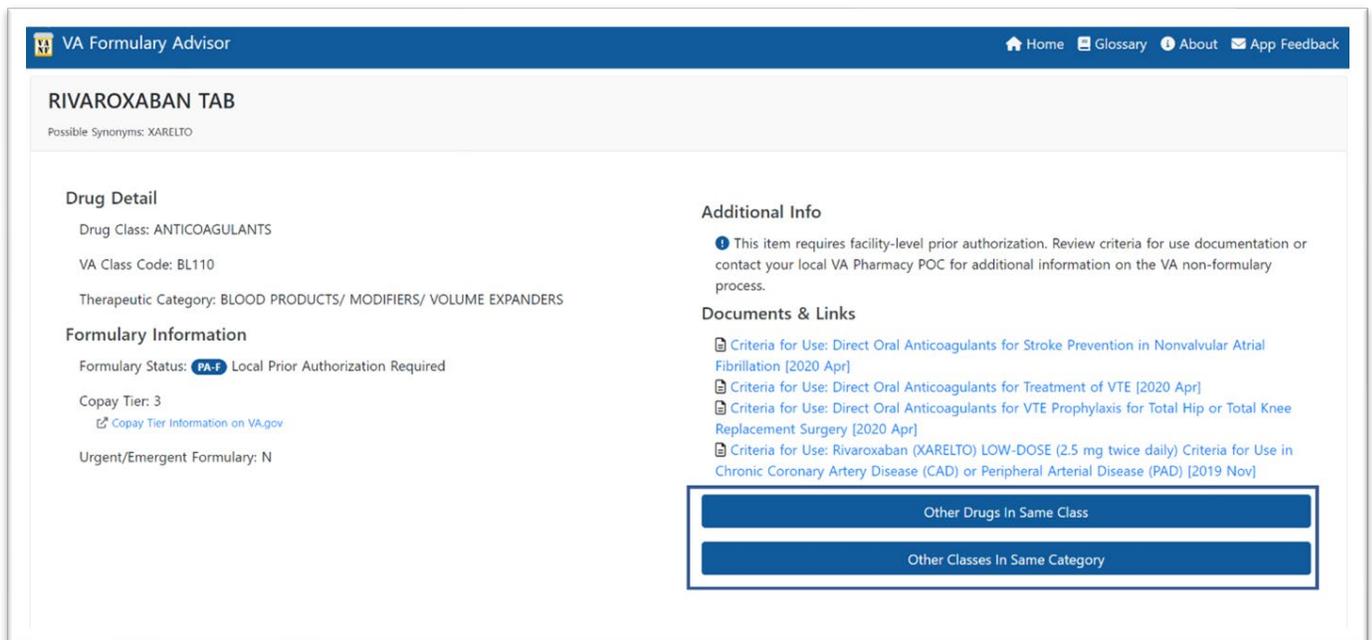
Figure 3-9. Drug Detail Page



3.2.1. Related Drugs & Classes Listings

The **Drug Detail** page includes links that bring up lists within the page of **Other Drugs in Same Class** and **Other Classes In Same Category**.

Figure 3-10. Other Drug and Classes Button



3.2.2. Other Drugs in Same Class

The list results are clickable and take the user to the detail page for those results. These results can also be filtered by **VA Formulary**, **Urgent/Emergent Formulary**, or **Show All**.

Clicking on **Other Drugs In Same Class** brings up a list of medications in the same class as the drug searched.

Figure 3-11. Medications in Class List

The screenshot shows the VA Formulary Advisor interface. The main panel displays details for RIVAROXABAN TAB, including drug class (ANTICOAGULANTS), VA Class Code (BL110), and formulary status (PA-F). A modal window on the right lists other medications in the class, such as APIXABAN TAB, ARGATROBAN INJ, and BIVALIRUDIN 250MG/ VIL INJ, with their respective formulary statuses.

| Medication | Formulary Status |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| APIXABAN TAB | PA-F |
| ARGATROBAN INJ | F |
| ARGATROBAN INJ, CONC | F |
| BIVALIRUDIN 250MG/ VIL INJ | F |
| DABIGATRAN CAP | PA-F |
| DALTEPARIN INJ | F |
| DEXTROSE/ HEPARIN INJ | F |
| EDOXABAN TAB | PA-F |
| ENOXAPARIN INJ | F |
| EPTIFIBATIDE INJ | F |
| FONDAPARINUX INJ | F |
| HEPARIN INJ | F |
| HEPARIN CONC | F |

3.2.3. Other Classes in Same Category

Clicking on **Other Drugs In Same Category** brings up classes within the category of the drug class of the drug just searched.

Figure 3-12. Classes Within Category List

The screenshot displays the VA Formulary Advisor interface. The main content area shows details for **RIVAROXABAN TAB** (Possible Synonyms: XARELTO). The **Drug Detail** section includes: Drug Class: ANTICOAGULANTS, VA Class Code: BL110, and Therapeutic Category: BLOOD PRODUCTS/ MODIFIERS/ VOLUME EXPANDERS. The **Formulary Information** section shows: Formulary Status: PA-F Local Prior Authorization Required, Copay Tier: 3, and Urgent/Emergent Formulary: N. The **Additional Info** section contains a note: "This item requires facility-level contact your local VA Pharmacy process." The **Documents & Links** section lists several criteria for use documents.

A modal window titled "Classes Within Category:" is open on the right side, displaying a list of related drug classes within the same category:

| Classes Within Category: | |
|--|-------|
| BLOOD PRODUCTS/ MODIFIERS/ VOLUME EXPANDERS | |
| BLOOD DERIVATIVES | BL500 |
| BLOOD PRODUCTS,OTHER | BL900 |
| THROMBOLYTICS | BL115 |
| ANTHEMORRHAGICS | BL116 |
| BLOOD FORMATION PRODUCTS | BL400 |
| ANTICOAGULANTS | BL110 |
| PLATELET AGGREGATION INHIBITORS | BL117 |
| VOLUME EXPANDERS | BL800 |
| HEPARIN ANTAGONISTS | BL118 |

4. Acronyms and Abbreviations

| Term | Meaning |
|-------------|--|
| CFU | Criteria for Use |
| OIT | Office of Information and Technology |
| PBM | Pharmacy Benefits Management |
| PDF | Portable Document Format |
| URL | Uniform Resource Locator (Web address) |
| VA | Department of Veterans Affairs |
| VHA | Veterans Health Administration |